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USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News Notes



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A New Year of Possibilities 2007

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Every year as the clock nears midnight on December 31st, the eyes of the world, including most U.S. service members and their families, turn to the twinkling lights of Time Square.

The unprecedented excitement of the crowd, a million strong in 2005, is infectious. You don't have to be in New York to share the excitement. Millions around the world tune in on television to see the sparkling ball drop welcoming the New Year. Who doesn't feel a bit of nostalgia recalling the past year's events while celebrating the possibilities of the New Year?

But did you ever wonder where this tradition began? (And no it wasn't with Dick Clark's Rockin-Eve). It began in New York City in 1904 with a huge party commemorating the official opening of the new headquarters of the New York Times. The newspaper's owner Mr. Alfred Ochs successfully convinced city officials to allow him to rename Longacre Square, the area surrounding his paper's new home, in honor of his new publication.

The Times Tower was surrounded on a tiny triangle-shaped street block at the intersections of 7th Avenue, Broadway and 42nd Street, and at the time was New York's second tallest building. This location was the focus of an unprecedented New Year's Eve party with over 200,000 people in attendance. The event was such a celebrated success that it replaced Manhattan's Trinity Church as New Yorker's place to be on New Year's Eve. In 1907, the New Year's Eve Ball made its debut as it descended from a flagpole atop One Time Square.

The original ball was



File Photo

constructed of iron and wood and was adorned in 100, 25-watt light bulbs with a total weight of 700 pounds. In 1920 the original ball was replaced with a 400 pound iron-only ball. It has been lowered every year since with the exception of 1942 and 1943, when it was suspended due to war time "dim-out" of lights in New York City.

In 1955 the iron ball was

It has been lowered every year since with the exception of 1942 and 1943, when it was suspended due to war time "dim-out" of lights in New York

replaced with an aluminum ball weighing only 150 pounds. This ball remained unchanged until the 1980's when red lights and the addition of a green stem converted the ball into an apple for the "I Love New York" marketing campaign which ran from 1981 to 1988. The white lights returned in 1995, and today the ball is a high-tech crystal ball completely redesigned

in 2000 by Waterford Crystal for the Millennium Celebration.

Yes, technology has come along way since the 1904 party but the tradition of celebrating a new year basically remains unchanged. Most people gather with friends and family, at parties and restaurants, around their televisions at home with loved ones and companions alike, and yes some gather at Time Square to usher in a new year and focus on the possibilities a new year brings. Possibilities of hope, health, love, and for most, the possibility of peace. From Moscow to Baghdad, — Houston to Amsterdam and all places in

between, people's general concerns are the same, caring for those they love. And who wouldn't be better off next year in a world of people who for one night of the year gather together at their special locations around the world and all hope for the same thing—peace on earth for all in the New Year. "Here's to possibilities" Happy New Year 2007!

Tell us what you think!

https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&service_provider_id=89130&site_id=684&service_category_id=2

NEWS



Health and retirement and
to wish all a happy and
prosperous life.

Master Sgt.
Stephen Kosaka



I hope the New Year brings
good health to all my
USAG Schinnen
family and colleagues
Patty Luypen



*I just hope to stay
healthy and continue
to enjoy my life in
2007.*

Major Rich Cureton



Peace to the world and more
money for me
Frans Bruens

2007 New Year's Wishes!

Schinnen Community Update

BOSS NYE Party The BOSS Eve Before New Year's Eve Party Comes Saturday, Dec. 30 to the Schinnen Sports Center on USAG Schinnen. Join BOSS for a BIG party with a DJ, Dancing, Food, Card Games, and tryouts for the USAFE X-Box Tournament in January. Doors open at 9 p.m. and admission is FREE. Open to all US/NATO ID cardholders and their guests. Hosted by BOSS and Project CHEER. For more information, please call 0049 2451-99-3378.

Sort Center Hours As of Saturday Jan. 6, 2007 the new hours for the Sort Center are 10:30-15:30 Hrs.

Use or Lose Annual Leave The 2006 annual leave year will end on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007. Employees who have accrued annual leave in excess of the maximum carry-over authorized (use or lose) will forfeit the excess leave they have accrued at the close of business on that date. Except for an emergency situation there should be no employees who have to forfeit unused annual leave.

Dancing Fun Do you or your child want to learn how to ballet or dance the flamingo, then sign up for dancing fun today! Classes begin Jan. 8. Sign up in the JFC Brunssum Gymnasium upper room (3rd floor) or call CER at 045-563-6221 for more information.

YS Boxing Two Youth Services boxing classes will begin Jan. 19 in the HQ JFC Brunssum Fitness Center. The first is for beginners, ages 11 through 18 for 15 weeks of instruction. Sessions will be on Fridays, 4 - 5:20 p.m. At the conclusion of the class, each participant will receive an official boxing pin from the German Boxing Federation. The second class is for Masters or participants who have already completed the Beginners Class. It, too, runs 15 weeks, 5:30 - 6:45, and is for ages 12 through 18.

Good news! Both classes feature newly purchased professional boxing equipment. You must be registered with YS before you can participate. For full details, please call DSN 364-3008 or CIV 045 526-3595.

TIER III Closed From Dec. 15, 2006 until Jan. 2, 2007 the TIER III helpdesk in Schinnen - The Netherlands is closed. In case you need to get support on TIER III, please do contact the Wuerzburg help desk at DSN 350-7504 or send them an email at the following address;

maintdesk@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Bowling Center Information Beginning Dec. 20, the Bowling Center including the Pin Point Café and Harry's BBQ, will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. It will be closed December 24-26 and December 31 through January 2. Cosmic bowling has permanently moved to Saturday nights beginning at 6 p.m.

TDY Orders and approval Please ensure you have notified all USAG Schinnen soldiers and civilians that when routing your TDY orders they must be accompanied by the travelers up to date *anti-terrorism level one training* certificate. To complete the training go to <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/>. Your orders will not be approved through the AT/FP Officer without the certificate.

AFAP Conference 2007 You've lived in different places and have different experiences and AFAP wants to capture your knowledge....

Make the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) aware of how the Army could improve well-being locally as well as nationally by writing an issue of concern or improvement for Schinnen, Europe, or the overall Army.

Our upcoming February 2007 Conference will have delegates work on your issue as well as others in an effort to increase overall Army Community well being.

Look for the orange cardboard boxes issue boxes near our community AFAP Poster, "A World of Experience Within Our Community", and fill out a form or email us at ACS-Schinnen@Eur.Army.mil. Call ACS at 443-7500.

TS Treebeek will be closed on following days:
Dec. 21 (12:00)-Dec 27 ; Dec. 29-Jan. 3.

Only for emergency issues you can call 361-5238.

NELC Holiday Hours The Netherlands Law Center will be closed on Dec. 25 and 26 for a USAREUR training holiday. The law center will also be closed on Jan. 1 and Jan. 2 for a USAREUR training holiday. Daily hours of operation will be from 8:00-4:00 during the holiday season, Dec. 18, 2006 - Jan. 2, 2007.

Treebeek The Treebeek Education Center will be closed from Dec. 22 - Jan. 1 for the holidays. Course registration for Term III will be Jan. 2 - 12 2007. Visit the Treebeek Education Center web page at https://www.earmyu.com/public/facility_pages/Netherlands_Treebeek_Geo_Ed_Center/default.asp for a complete listing of the courses being offered locally in Term III.

MWR Trips and Tours New Trips for 2007:

Feb 9-12: *Valentines Weekend in Paris* (register with full payment by Dec. 30)

March 10: *Bruges, Belgium* (register with full payment March 7)

April 13-16: *Munich, Germany* register with full payment by March 2)

April 28: *Keukenhof Gardens*, register with full payment by April 21)

USAG SCHINNEN

Sesame Workshop is airing a TV special for military kids on Dec. 27 entitled "When Parents Are Deployed". Armed Forces Network (AFN) is coordinating a showing of the PBS Special for overseas locations.

January, 2007 is the target date for airing overseas. The best place to check on when this will be shown is by logging onto the MyAFN web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/tv/schedule/index.asp>.

An excerpt from the video was presented at the recent DoD Conference on Education for military-Connected Communities and a presentation was conducted by Mr. Gary Knell, CEO of Sesame Workshop. The original videos were depleted rapidly from

Militaryonesource.com. The special is hosted by Cuba Gooding Jr.



Green Tips for Everybody
Have a Merry Green Christmas!






The long dark days before Christmas when Christmas trees are decorated and presents are bought mean time to reflect the year. But it can also be time to think about our environment.

- ✓ Separate your Christmas waste for recycling!
- ✓ After the festivities bring your Christmas trees and recyclable waste (plastic bottles, paper, glass, metal cans) to the SORT Center, Building 47, located at the Schinnen Emma Mine Complex! During Christmas holidays SORT Center has following operating hours:

Date	Operating hours
Wednesday, 27 December 2006:	900 – 1600
Thursday, 28 December 2006:	900 – 1000 and 1400 – 1500
Friday, 29 December 2006:	900 – 1000 and 1400 – 1500
Saturday, 30 December 2006:	900 – 1700

- ✓ Switch off your Christmas decoration during daytime and when you are not at home!
- ✓ Use reusable bags or boxes for packing your presents!
- ✓ Buy drinks in large containers, rather than in a lot of small ones!
- ✓ Give presents with a low environmental cost, such as sponsoring a gorilla in the jungle or a membership to a gym!
- ✓ Reuse your Christmas decoration from last year!
- ✓ Choose wooden toys over plastic ones. Avoid poor quality toys and disposable toys!
- ✓ Pass any unwanted presents on to your local charity shop rather than throwing them away - there is sure to be someone who will like them!




*On behalf of U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen
Public Affairs*



*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year 2007!*

The Tri-border News is a product of the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Public Affairs Office. Submissions for publication may be brought/sent to the Public Affairs Office, Room 117, Building 8, USAG Schinnen, Unit 21602, APO AE 09703. Submissions may also be faxed to DSN 360-7332 or 046-443-7332 or e-mailed to paousagschi@benelux.army.mil. Items should be created in simple text (no art work, borders, columns, etc.) in MS Word using Times New Roman 10 pt. PAO reserves all editorial rights.

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